

Bonsai

Environment



You must have heard stories from your grandparents of how they used to have fun climbing trees in their villages. They used to pluck mangoes and guavas and enjoy great times. How many times have you seen big big plants and remembered your grandfather's stories and also felt really nice to be in their shade and warmth? You must have felt really at home among the plants. Well, children now you can have the same beauty at home with just a little love and care. This is where Bonsai comes in. Bonsai is an art where we grow big plants in small pots. The plants are trained to grow in small pots in the same way they would have grown in the garden. Bonsai plants take you on a journey into the land of the Lilliputs and relive the "GULLIVER'S TALES". All you need now is your fertile imagination and bonsai plants. Doesn't it sound great? Bonsai is an ancient Chinese art which was adapted by the Japanese to suit their climate and attitudes. The art is even older than you can imagine. It was in 618 A.D that bonsai art was first seen on the tomb of King Ziang Hui of the Tang dynasty in China. He had his artists draw bonsai trees on his tomb walls. The Chinese called Bonsai as PENZAI. In the 11th and 12th

century Japanese monks who came to China took these living sculptures home and started growing them there. The art was unknown to the western world till 1878 when the first Bonsai plant was publicly shown in PARIS. Even now, you find trees in Japan which are around 500 to 600 years old and still growing healthily in their containers. There is a Bonsai village in a garden at Omiya in Japan. It was established in 1925 covering approximately 30 hectares of land with more than 1,00,000 Bonsai plants. It is a pilgrimage spot for Bonsai lovers from all around the world. A Bonsai artist must always have his eyes open so that he can always collect information from the surrounding nature. An artist uses stones and plants and spaces them in such a way that the entire scene doesn't seem different from the nature around him. This is an important aspect of Bonsai. A good bonsai is not determined by its age or size but by its shape. A small tree that is well shaped and well balanced is an invaluable treasure. A good bonsai is one which has the trunk rising without any obstructions and all the branches are well spaced out and arranged. The

branches should be low and should have the look of some maturity and at first sight should look like a big tree branch. The basic aim of bonsai is to mimic nature placed in the confines of the home. Thus the shape of the tree plays an important part in the appearance of the tree. Similarly the direction of the trunk of the tree plays an important part as it emphasises the appearance of the tree as a grown and mature tree. For example in a wind-swept style of tree the trunk is shaped by the wind as it grows in the direction of the wind. A good bonsai artist will shape the trunk in such a way that the observer feels that it is completely bent in one direction. A bonsai plant is said to be very good when one can hear the wind flowing through it and can hear the birds chirping on it. A bonsai plant should be spacious enough to let birds fly through its branches. Bonsai is an artist's expression and cannot be described. It changes from person to person. If you are interested in learning more about Bonsai you can contact : K. SAILAJA, Flat A-1/201, Anthariksha Hsg. Complex, Pimpri, Pune - 411018. Tel.: 774082.

NEWS

Welcome punishment

Manila is the capital city of the Phillipines. This city is suffering from a grave problem of pollution and filth all around. The Environment and Natural Resources Ministry has come up with a novel idea to fight this problem. They have decided to ask industries who break rules and pollute the environment to pay a heavy fine. And what is this fine?



They will be required to plant fruit trees in the city! The number of trees would depend on the extent of the violation. Isn't that an interesting fine?

Lots of new visitors!

This winter a lot of new visitors visited the Chilka Lake in Behrampur, Orissa. The guest list included names like the Salkated Teal, the White Stork, Brahmani Duck, Perigrain Falcon etc. Yes, we are talking about birds. This year the lake which is the country's largest area for migratory birds welcomed nearly 1.5 million birds of seventy species who made it their home for the winter. Some of them were here on their first trip while others had been here earlier.

Contest

April 22nd is Earth Day

What's so special about this day? This is the day when each one of us should take up a responsibility to make the Earth a healthier and safe place to live in. Earth day is thus a day dedicated to also recognise its beauty. On this occasion all over the world demonstrations and parades are held to bring about an awareness about the effect of over population, pollution, wastage of energy and other significant issues related to earth.

To celebrate this day all you have to do is write a small poem and dedicate it to Earth. The poem should not be more than 12 lines. It should reach us by the 20th of April with your name, age, address and the subscription number on it. Exciting prizes are awaiting your way. So on your marks, get set and go....

IT WAS IN THE YEAR 1970 THAT THE EARTH DAY WAS FIRST OBSERVED ON 22ND APRIL WITH THE MESSAGE "GIVE EARTH A CHANCE". SINCE THEN EVERY YEAR THIS DAY HAS ACHIEVED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE ALL OVER THE WORLD.